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The reductions from the list of 1881 number only two, namely: *Chen albatus* of the 'Nomenclature' is now made a synonym of *Chen hyperboreus*, and *Brachyrhamphus brachypterus* is similarly referred to *Synthliborhamphus antiquus*.—J. A. A.

Coues and Prentiss's Avifauna Columbiana.—The title* of this interesting brochure, although explicit, fails to fully imply the scope of the work, 4 pages of which are devoted to the 'Literature of the Subject,' 17 to the 'Location and Topography of the District,' 5 to the 'General Character of the Avifauna,' 78 to the 'Annotated List of the Birds,' 8 to a 'Summary and Recapitulation,' and 3 to the 'Game Laws of the District,' following which is a full index. The 100 woodcuts, illustrating structural characters of the birds, are mainly from previous publications by the senior author. Three of the maps—colored, and drawn to the scale of 3 5·9 inches to the mile—illustrate minutely the topography of the three regions into which the District is divided, while the fourth is a general map of the District and immediately contiguous country.

The original 'List of the Birds of the District of Columbia,' etc., published in 1862, contained 226 species, only one of which proves to have been included erroneously. The additions made in the twenty-two years which have intervened number 23, making the total number of the present list 248. In rewriting the list the authors, besides incorporating the additional species, have expanded their annotations about four-fold, through fuller notices of the habits of the species, and in noting the changes in the bird-fauna resulting from the growth of a large city. The subject in general is treated not only with great fulness, but is very attractively set forth, and in general plan forms an excellent model of what a faunal list should be. The preliminary matter includes an account of 'Rail Shooting on the Anacostia River Marshes,' illustrated with two plates. In the 'Recapitulation,' the species are arranged in five categories, from which it appears that 47 are permanent residents, 46 winter residents, and 66 summer visitors, while 49 occur only as spring and autumn migrants, and 40 as very rare or accidental visitors.—J. A. A.

Ridgway on Rare Neotropical Birds.†—The species considered are *Harporhynchus ocellatus* Scl., *Pyranga erythrocephalus* (Sw.), *Zonotrichia quinquestriata* Scl. & Salv., *Contopus ochraceus* Scl. & Salv., and *Panyptila cayennensis* (Gm.), about which there are brief remarks respecting their affinities. Mr. Ridgway is inclined to restrict the genus

* Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 26. Avifauna Columbiana: being a list of Birds ascertained to inhabit the District of Columbia, with the times of arrival and departure of such as are non-residents, and brief notices of habits, etc. The Second Edition, revised to date and entirely rewritten. By Elliott Coues, M. D., Ph.D., Professor of Anatomy in the National Medical College, etc., and D. Webster Prentiss, A.M., M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the National Medical College, etc. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1883. 8vo., pp. 133, 100 woodcuts, frontispiece, and 4 folded maps.

† Notes upon some Rare Species of Neotropical Birds. By Robert Ridgway, Curator Department of Birds, United States National Museum. Ibis, Oct. 1883, pp. 399-401.